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SOCER WORLD

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Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

Title race is approaching tense climax

— By PAUL DEAN —

Both the First and Second Division championships may be decided by decimal points.

The last time a Sydney championship was won on goal average was in 1965 when South Coast just nosed ahead of St. George-Budapest.

The closeness of the championship — and the clean spirit of the game — would demand that all matches with a bearing on first place, semifinals and relegation should be played on the same day of the last round.

This would prevent the possibility of foul play not only being done — but also appearing to be done.

This is a matter the Federation can and must do as it's being done in every mature soccer country of the world.

At the moment Hakoah have the narrowest of leads over Pan Hellenic in the title race — their goal averages (goals scored divided by those conceded) are 2.43 and 2.40 respectively.

HAKOAH FAVORED

From now on each goal these teams score or concede is likely to weigh very heavily in the scales.

These are their last two matches:

Hakoah: Yugal and St. George, both at home.

Pan Hellenic: Prague and Melita, both away.

If they both win this weekend, the last round will decide and quite possibly in

Hakoah's favor who have a chance to further improve their goal average.

Many unattached fans, however, not to mention the rabid Pan Hellenic fans, would like the Greek-run team to succeed if for no other reason than as a reward for their enterprise which undoubtedly peppep up the long ailing Sydney championship.

But can Pan Hellenic win the title? Well, they must collect the maximum four points in their last two games — and avoid conceding any goals in the process.

Suppose they win twice 2-0; this will give them a final goal average of 40.14, that is, 2.66 points precisely.

Should Hakoah win their two last games also 2-0 each, they will have 43.16, or 2.68 precisely — and the title.

But if Hakoah only win 2-0 and 4-1, their goals tally will be 45.17 and their "average" only 2.64.

This shows the tremendous importance of not conceding goals.

What about the race for third and fourth? APIA are almost certain to beat Manly and then face Polonia.

Prague will meet Pan Hellenic and then Manly.

Polonia's program is the toughest: they play at Woonona this week and against APIA the next.

Even Croatia have a chance if they win their games against Melita and Canterbury.

But for them to succeed Prague would have to lose this week and only draw the next and Polonia shouldn't collect more than one point, either.

(Continued on page 2)



Ernie Campbell scoring APIA's goal at Wentworth Park last Sunday. A crowd of 18,150 saw Pan Hellenic beat their arch-rivals 2-1.

Marnoch halfway on N. Zealand trip

The First Division championship lead may have changed hands last weekend, but in the SOCCER WORLD-FLOTTA LAURO Players' Contest Hakoah's Allan Marnoch retains the lead he has enjoyed since the start of the premiership.

The Hakoah skipper, however, isn't home and hosed yet and the six-day cruise to New Zealand donated by Flotta Lauro on either the luxury "Angelina Lauro" or "Achille Lauro" can still be wrested from him.

Melita Eagles' young Cornelius ("Casey") De Bruin is the only serious threat to the Australian centre-half.

With De Bruin in devastating form, Marnoch can't afford the slightest slip-up in the last two matches.

Should Marnoch be awarded only three points in the remaining matches while De Bruin collects five points twice, the Melita halfback will win the Flotta Lauro cruise.

In the event of a tie, the first prize will be awarded on a countback.

The stage is thus set for an exciting finale in Australia's most glamorous contest for players.

The strain of a tough 20 weeks of keen competition has taken its toll on the players.

The "four points-plus" club has shrunk to six players — the only ones who have averaged four points or more since the start of the championship.

This is how the leading players now stand:

Marnoch (Hakoah)	4.30
De Bruin (Melita)	4.15
Zeman (Prague)	4.05
Rafaneli (Yugal)	4.00
Reynolds (Croatia)	4.00
Schaefer (St. George)	4.00

MINISTER BACKS MIGRANT CLUBS

The Minister for Immigration (Mr. Snedden) last week strongly defended the national groups and clubs of migrants.

In his speech at the Good Neighbourhood Council of NSW, Mr. Snedden spoke of the country's needs to hold on to the migrants.

He said between 9 and 16 percent of migrants tended to return home after a period in Australia.

"Australians must be elastic, even radical in their response to people from other countries if we want our immigration program to continue," he said.

He was in favor of what many people might consider an almost heretical view —

increased involvement of national groups and clubs in the integration of migrants.

"Their great advantage to the new arrival is that members can speak both their national language and English," he said.

"We must seek the increased help of these groups."

Mr. Snedden's statement strongly contradicts earlier rumors that the Immigration Department is "critical" of migrant-named and run soccer clubs.

NSW Federation First Division

TEAM	AGGREGATE					HOME					AWAY					NEXT OPPONENT					* HOME MATCH	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	
Hakoah	20	13	5	2	39	16	31	9	7	1	1	20	8	15	11	6	4	1	19	8	16	Yugal*
Pan Hellenic	20	14	3	3	36	15	31	11	9	1	1	21	8	19	9	5	2	2	15	7	12	Prague
APIA	20	9	7	4	32	24	25	9	5	3	1	15	8	13	11	4	4	3	17	16	12	Manly*
Prague	20	10	3	7	35	25	23	9	7	1	1	17	3	15	11	3	2	6	18	22	8	Pan Hellenic*
Polonia	20	9	5	6	29	22	23	11	4	3	4	14	15	11	9	5	2	2	15	7	12	South Coast
Croatia	20	9	3	8	33	33	21	10	5	2	3	18	14	12	10	4	1	5	15	19	9	Melita Eagles*
Yugal	20	8	4	8	26	32	20	11	3	4	4	11	17	10	9	5	—	4	15	15	10	Hakoah
South Coast	20	6	5	9	32	27	17	9	5	—	4	25	14	10	11	1	5	5	7	13	7	Polonia*
Canterbury	20	5	5	10	29	49	15	9	2	3	4	10	19	7	11	3	2	6	19	30	8	St. George*
Melita Eagles	20	4	6	10	19	31	14	10	1	5	4	13	18	7	10	3	1	6	6	13	7	Croatia
St. George	20	4	6	10	17	28	14	11	2	4	5	9	17	8	9	2	2	5	8	11	6	Canterbury
Manly	20	1	4	15	20	45	6	11	—	1	10	8	25	1	9	1	3	5	12	20	5	APIA

READERS' LETTERS

District soccer

I agree with "Soccer Fan, Waverly" (SW 2/8/68) that something will have to be done to shoot soccer ahead.

Let's face it: the present set-up has had it.

We must get first grade district football as soon as possible.

Look at the tremendous enthusiasm in Melbourne for their Aussie Rules district games — flags, colors, balloons, the lot.

I don't think much of their game, but the fans down there turn out and enjoy the atmosphere plus a lot of bally-hoo.

Rugby League is now following in their footsteps and as we all know, draw good crowds even at far away Lidcombe Oval.

Soccer used to draw quite big crowds to Lidcombe night competition games a few years ago, but the ruling body thought it too far away and want all games to be near the City.

Promotion and relegation was the greatest curse ever to hit soccer.

It was used as a lever to shoot good district clubs into the "Garbage Can" called Second Division.

We had the farce of eleven "star" players, no ground, no tradition, ousting a district club with thousands of juniors.

Well, this was no foundation on which to build the game.

There will be the usual "Blah-Blah", we couldn't do without promotion and relegation as there would be no interest in the bottom half of the competition.

With District enthusiasm, the fans always want to see their team win for the honour of it.

The old Granville v. Auburn derbies and Granville v. Leichhardt were always very keen.

Seeing these and other teams in Second Division would make you cry, though it gives the other codes a good laugh.

Relegation is the cause of our defensive "1-8-2" system, foul play, etc., because the teams are all frightened of getting shot into the old "Garbage Can" we call the Second Division.

Like thousands of others, I am waiting for the day when we return to the District system.

We are the mob you see watching the kids on Saturday morning.

Another amazing thing in the present set-up is when a team like Manchester or Scotland is playing Australia or NSW, the crowd cheers the visitors.

They look at the game as between Scotland v. a European XI, so they cheer the British team.

Fantastic, I call it!

J. Brody.
Lidcombe.

The pros and cons of district soccer can be argued endlessly and reader Brody is entitled to his opinion, but his contention that Australian national teams are merely "European XIs" is nonsense. Since he mentioned the matches against Scotland specifically, just for the record this is the Australian team which took the field in Sydney: Fuze, Nuttall, Marnoch, Watkiss, Cook, Warren, Hughes, Westwater, Giles, Baartz, Blue. With the exception of Fuze, a naturalised Australian, all the others couldn't be more "British."

— Editor.

Sbisa's comeback

Firstly congratulations on a fine newspaper which I really look forward to every Thursday.

As a keen follower of the amateurs, last Sunday I was a spectator at Rudd Park to see Belmore v. Lidcombe.

In this match there was one outstanding feature: the standard of refereeing. I later learnt that the man in the middle was Frank Sbisa, making a comeback to the sport.

I, and I'm sure many others, would like to congratulate Mr. Sbisa via media of your paper, on a very fine effort and if that is any indication of things to come I feel he will be up in the top bracket very soon.

J. D. Dwyer,
Belmore.

Historic goal

In answer to the query from "Mack," Vaucluse, Sid Grant informs us that Australia's first goal in an international match was scored by West Wallsend's W. ("Podge") Maunders in the first "test" against New Zealand in Dunedin in 1923.

N.Z. tour under way

The NSW Amateur Association under-16 representative team left for an eight-match tour of New Zealand's South Island on Thursday.

Seventeen boys, representing metropolitan and country associations, are making the arduous 15-day trip accompanied by coach Laurie Hegyes and managers Dave Childs and Bruce Pleasant.

Their first match is on Saturday, August 24, at Christchurch against a Canterbury XI.

This is the itinerary:

Sat. Aug. 24 v. Canterbury at Christchurch, Mon. Aug. 26 v. Marlborough at Marlborough, Tues. Aug. 27 v. Nelson at Nelson, Thurs. Aug. 29 v. West Coast at Greymouth, Mon. Sept. 2 v. Southland at Invercargill, Wed. Sept. 4 v. Otago at Dunedin, Fri. Sept. 6 v. South Canterbury at Timaru, Sat. Sept. 7 v. South Island at Christchurch.

Next Friday, August 30, the NSW under-18 team is off to New Caledonia and on Sunday week another NSW under-16 squad, almost exclusively made up of Federation players, flies to Melbourne for the Australian Junior Championship, which starts on Monday, September 2.

We will preview both events next week.

Aiming for business?



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SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

With two rounds remaining, Sydney's First Division attendance stands already at 368,256 spectators. This represents a weekly average of 18,412 for the 20 championship rounds to date. Last season the 22 championship rounds and the final play-offs had only attracted 347,500 spectators. Indications are that the competition proper this year will draw around 405,000 people — some 107,000 more than in 1967 — and that the play-offs will bring in an additional 80,000, as against 49,500 last year.

BANKSTOWN District Soccer Club Limited will sponsor the NSW Combined High Schools championship, in the 13 years age group, on August 23 during the current school vacation. The club will provide 14 trophies for players and referees. Two pitches have been made available: Bankstown's very own at their Soccer Centre and Bankstown Memorial Oval.

PRAGUE have been invited by the Coalstars club (Queensland Division 1) to be guests at the centenary celebrations of the city of Ipswich which will include a soccer tournament on November 16.

Newcastle First Division club NEW LAMBTON will in future be known as the "Eagles". An eagle has been incorporated on the club insignia, and will also be displayed at their newly-opened ground, Wallarah Oval.

JOHN WARREN is off to join English Third Division Stockport on Monday. While in the UK Warren hopes to complete a preliminary coaching course and on the way home, in about five months, he plans to do more studying in Budapest, Hungary. Apart from playing and coaching, Warren will also study the British professional set-up from the inside. He will be accompanied by his wife, Marion, who will pursue her teaching career in England.

We hear that some officials were UPSET about the "leak" from the recent ASF sub-committee meeting as they didn't want to publicise what had happened. Has anything at all happened...?

JIM KELLY flies to England on Thursday week to be near his wife, Diana, who will undergo an operation next week. Though Kelly's future with South Coast United is still very much under a cloud, the odds are he won't be returning.

South Coast's Tommy Anderson has been notified that three BRITISH PLAYERS, all friends of his, were contemplating to settle in Australia. One is an English Second Division fullback, the others, a Scottish goalie and an English forward, are currently starring in South Africa's booming professional soccer. The trio is likely to join whichever club Anderson plays for in 1969.

Despite the ASF's claim to the contrary, FIFA has no record of the recent Australia v. Japan internationals ever being classified as full "A" INTERNATIONALS. Consequently, the results have still not appeared in the official "FIFA Bulletin" which publishes the results of all internationals recognised by the world body.

GEORGE YARDLEY must have fully recovered: in the first round of the English League season last week he started off by scoring a goal for Tranmere when they beat Gillingham 2-0.

TOM ANDERSON, the rugged South Coast United midfield player, has received offers to join Sydney and Melbourne clubs as a player-coach. Anderson, a car salesman, and single, has no attachments on the South Coast and is seriously considering a move next season.

A record 244 teams took part last Saturday in the ILLAWARRA Junior Association's Gala Day at Balgownie. Trophies were presented by the Mayor of Wollongong, Alderman Bevan, and other prominent local identities.

Another young Australian has gone to Britain to try his luck. He is APIA's talented 19-year-old reserve forward, TERRY DICKINSON, now on trial with Tranmere Rovers, George Yardley's English Third Division club.

St. George's young Scottish forward, FRED McCALLIOG, has recovered from his severe bout of flu and will resume playing this week.

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The quick transfers of David Ciss and Victor Fernandez to Melbourne-Hungaria paid instant DIVIDENDS. HSC last week downed SM-Hellas 3-2, and the result is likely to stand though Hellas supporters invaded the field after Abonyi's winning goal in the 88th minute, forcing the game to be abandoned. Melbourne have now moved one point ahead of woodenspooners, JUST.

Prague's management will seek a NSW Management Committee INQUIRY into the alleged riotous behaviour of some Melita Eagles players and officials at Mona Park last Sunday.

EPPING YMCA took out the under-17 Division 1 of the Gladesville-Hornsby Association, scoring 119 goals and conceding none. Don Snape is coach and district referee John Booty is manager. The inside forwards scored 33 goals each.

and the centre-forward, who will be still under-7 next year, scored 29. The club's under-6 Division 1 side was held to a 1-1 draw in the last match, holding a goal average of 45-1.

The NSW Amateur UNDER-16 team met the Premier, Mr. R. Askin, and members of the State Cabinet at Parliament House before setting off for their New Zealand tour on Thursday.

The FIJI Football Association is expected to play five matches in NSW Country centres in late September.

RAY BAARTZ, on crutches at the Polonia-Hakoah game, has his leg in plaster and will be sidelined for some time. The leg will be in plaster for four weeks. The trouble is a fine fracture near the ankle.

WESTERN SUBURBS Soccer Club Limited now has over 3,500 members, with more being admitted, and further applications in hand. The membership will rise considerably when forthcoming major additions are completed. Amongst the prospective sites being negotiated for a suitable stadium is the Canada Bay area.

JOHNNY GIACOMETTI has forfeited the return trip for two to Singapore he won last year for topping the "Soccer World"-La Flamma" Players' Contest. Alitalia, the Contest's sponsors, have agreed to allow his wife, Nadia, to fly to Italy instead at the end of this month. She will return to Sydney after Christmas.

GEOFF BARNES, the South Coast fullback, flies back to the UK at the end of the current season. He won't be coming back.

A Gala Day for the presentation of trophies to winners in the growing WARRINGAH Convent Schools Sports Association will take place on August 31, at Garden Street Grounds, North Narrabeen, starting at 11.30 a.m. with a march past of all teams, followed by a KO competition.

The St. George-Budapest Club, 84 Victoria Avenue, Mortdale, will screen a full-length FILM of the 1968 European Cup Final between Manchester United and Benfica (4-1), played at Wembley in May, at 7.30 p.m. this Thursday.

The Federal Member for Hughes, Mr. J.D.M. Dobey, will represent Prime Minister Gorton at the 10th anniversary dinner of the NSW Coaches' Federation on Friday, August 30 at Valentine's restaurant. The Prime Minister, who was invited but is unable to attend, is the Patron of the Australian Coaches' Federation — the first and only such post he has accepted in soccer.

What's next — Ouzo? Pan Hellenic Supporters' Club officials introduced a novel and welcome feature last week to Sydney soccer by running around with plates of SAVOURIES on the Paddy Gray Stand towards the end of the match against APIA. Admittedly, by that time they were leading 2-1...

Memo to the "Daily Mirror": the record crowd for an ordinary Sydney championship match stands at 19,676, and was set at the Sydney Sports Ground in 1963 when APIA and Pan Hellenic played a 1-1 draw. How last Monday's "Mirror" reached the conclusion that "the record attendance was set in 1959 at the Sydney Athletic Field at a match between Prague and APIA" eludes us. A glance at the "Soccer World Annual" would have put the record straight.

APIA's ace scorer, JOHN GIACOMETTI, is likely to ask for a transfer at the end of the season. "A change would do me good after six years with APIA," he said this week. Giacometti, only 30, is unlikely to have too much trouble in finding himself a new club.

EMMANUEL SAID, 63, the father of Melita Eagles' secretary, died last week. The funeral was held on Tuesday.

Prominent members of the BANKSTOWN Coaching Academy, together with the under-14 Bankstown metropolitan champions, are making a five-day visit to Gunnedah, Tamworth and Armidale, starting on Friday. The lads will be "demonstrators" while coaching films are screened. They'll also play against local opposition in the country centres.

Foot-tennis

No matches were played in the \$300 St. George-Budapest foot-tennis competition last Monday.

The draw for next Monday at the Mortdale club is: Longmuir-Woods v. Johnston-Blitz; Van Blerk-Hughes v. Ninaus-Kauz; Hendry-Jagger v. Earl-Armstrong; Western Suburbs team v. Alagich brothers; Manuel-Parkhouse v. Clegg-Hillary; Zuckerman-Schauman v. Maloney-Brown.

TENSE CLIMAX

(Continued from page 1)

So it's tight, no matter how you look at it.

It's possibly even more exciting in the Second Division where the great beneficiary from the Banks-town-Western Suburb race may be the new leaders, Auburn.

With only two rounds to go, only one point separates these three teams.

And as goal average does not decide promotion, it's possible that either a play-off or a round-robin will be necessary to split these three hopefuls, though Auburn, who have to meet Lane Cove and Granville, must be favored to regain their First Division berth.

Western Australia in the semis!

MERDEKA WILL GROW WITHOUT AUSTRALIA

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Western Australia's successes at the Merdeka Tournament should have opened Australian soccer officialdom's eyes for good.

It must now be more than ever evident that Australian soccer has fresh fields to conquer in Asia.

What Western Australia, considered by many as the Australian mainland's weakest soccer State, has achieved, Australia can achieve, even better, at national team level.

Australia went part of the way towards achieving this goal on last year's Asian tour, but one still denotes a marked reticence towards a full, whole-hearted involvement in Asian soccer.

NO INHIBITIONS

Western Australia has no such inhibitions.

Their president, Julius Re, has committed his State fully in Asian soccer.

He paved the way for what is now WA's "traditional" participation in the Merdeka Tournament at the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok, which he attended for a week.

There he made the personal contacts which opened the door to his State's growing involvement in Southeast Asian football.

He didn't have to wait for tangible results long; seven months later WA made their first appearance at the Merdeka, creating history by becoming the first non-Asian team at one of Asia's top sporting events.

Western Australia have now become an integral part of the Merdeka — at Australia's expense.

No matter how you look at it, the Australian Federation has been snubbed.

After declining repeated invitations to take part in the Merdeka, the Malaysian organisers now don't even bother to enquire further as far as the national team is concerned.

When they think of "Australia", they now automatically refer to Western Australia, whose officials were quick to seize on the opportunity,

though they still have to pay half their fares.

Let's hazard a guess that after their performances this year, Western Australia will get the full VIP treatment at future Merdekas and will travel thereafter at the Malaysian FA's cost.

"MURDERED"

Western Australia's entry in the Merdeka was greeted with derision and righteous indignation in some ASF quarters last year.

"They'll get murdered, and bring shame to Australia", was the consensus of opinion.

Even last year this did not eventuate. Sure, WA finished ninth out of 11 teams, but none of their defeats assumed overwhelming proportions.

And we know what happened this year, at only their second Merdeka venture.

Against South Korea, WA did much better than the Australian national team last

year. They also beat the full Indonesian team 5-4, a result which compares more than favorably with the national team's 2-0 and 3-1 wins in 1967 against Djakarta and Indonesian XIs.

The Aussies' only lapse was against Japan (not their crack Olympic team), against whom they lost 1-0.

Western Australia then went on to beat Nationalist China 3-2 before drawing with Singapore 4-4.

As a result of this remarkable sequence they have qualified for the semifinals which were played last Tuesday at Kuala Lumpur.

With the exception of North Korea, Iran, Israel and the full Japanese Olympic team, the cream of Asian soccer is in Malaysia.

And from what I saw at the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok, South Korea are not far behind Israel and Iran; actually they're very much on a par with Iran, the Asian Games runners-up.

I can safely say that North Korea is in a class of its own in Asia, followed by Japan, whose vast improvement may be demonstrated at the Olympics in October.

But every other Asian country is well within reach of any Australian team as WA proved eloquently.

AUSTRALIA'S LOSS

Of course, they don't rate too highly in world soccer, but then does Australia?

Those who dismiss the successes of Australia in 1967 and WA this year as having been achieved against second-rate opposition should think twice.

As a child must learn to crawl before he can even attempt to walk, Australian soccer can only achieve any sort of international standing progressively, and Asia is the ideal testing ground.

Our officials, and a majority of our fans, however, are engrained with a "European" or "British" complex.

They are looking at it from the wrong end. European soccer shouldn't be our yardstick — not yet anyway.

It's in Asia that we have to prove ourselves. The sooner the lesson is learnt, the better for Australian soccer.

Western Australia have seen the light. Australia, as a whole, hasn't.

WA's gain, paradoxically, is Australia's loss.

But how can you expect those who arranged a meaningless second-rate Cardiff City tour in preference to a trip to the Merdeka Tournament — even if we had to pay for the whole venture ourselves — to see it this way?

Leading English referee, Ken Aston, is like Cardiff City manager, Jim Scouler, in that he sees problems arising from Australia's nationalistic outlook.

In Adelaide last week, Aston said: "Nationally-minded spectators turn club games into mini-internationals and this is the main problem facing Australian referees.

"This problem is not peculiar to Australia as I have struck the same situation in Canada and America," added Aston.

The noted FIFA authority gave three three-hour lectures in Adelaide which drew an average attendance of 80 referees and cadets.

During his final lecture he paid the SA referees a tremendous compliment.

He told them they were the best organised, most knowledgeable in the rules and the fittest he had met on his world tour which had embraced 37 countries.

Aston said he was astounded to learn that it was compulsory for referees to attend all SA meetings and fitness training sessions.

He refereed 29 internationals, an FA Cup final and World Cup matches during his 37 years as a top official.

— A. Crisp.

ASTON'S NSW PROGRAM

This is the NSW itinerary for the visit of the world-famous FIFA referee, Ken Aston:

Thurs., August 22: Morning — Transport to Newcastle by car. Lunch at Adamstown Rosebud Soccer Club. Afternoon — Lecture, 2 p.m., Adamstown Soccer Ground. Evening — Lecture

Second Division play-off plan

This year's Second Division round-robin final play-offs will be played at Macarthur Park, Granville.

This is a wise move by the Federation and financially should prove a much better success than last year, when the games were played at the Marks Field.

Fixtures will be played in a series of double-headers on:

- Saturday, September 7: 3 v. 4, 1 v. 2.
- Saturday, September 14: 1 v. 3, 2 v. 4.
- Saturday, September 21: 2 v. 3, 1 v. 4.
- Saturday, September 28: Third grade final, second grade final and first grade final.

On all Saturdays, the early games will be the third

and second grade round-robin play-offs.

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Smalltalk

Johnny Warren's Stockport experiment will be watched with keen interest from 12,000 miles away. Will he succeed? Can he make the grade in the tough English League Football?

Of all the Australian players who have tried their luck in Britain in the last 20 years or so, only Joe Marston has really "made it" by playing for years with First Division Preston North End.

Some of the others had only more modest success, John Watkiss tried out with Wolverhampton but failed to impress; Les Schauman made a half-hearted attempt with some London clubs.

Tolson made the grade with lowly Fourth Division Workington and Roberts has been keeping goal for two years for Chesterfield, also in Fourth Division. Campbell, Yaager, Baartz, Miner, Stefanovic and a couple of other youngsters reached only the junior or reserve grades and Westwater played for Scottish Second Division Stirling Albion.

* * *

Some two weeks ago the Southampton soccer club in England obligingly deferred its afternoon League match until the evening so that the visiting Australian cricket team wouldn't have to play, the same day, before empty stands.

Will there ever be a similar gesture made by cricket (or Rugby League) towards soccer in Australia?

* * *

With the possible exception of the Punchbowl Girl Guides and the NSW Housekeeper Emergency Service, everybody else has duly taken credit for the rise in Sydney attendances. The truth is, of course, that Pan Hellenic's great run during the year and, more recently, the arrival of one Takis Loukanidis, is largely responsible for the increase.

A couple of years ago Melbourne experienced the same phenomenon when Nestoridis was starring for Hellas. And I'm sure it would be the same again if next year APIA managed to bring out Corso, Altafini, Bulgarelli, Losi or another of the ageing but legendary Italian stars.

* * *

It's quite astonishing, but true: of our 12 First Division senior coaches not one is Australian born. Where, then, are the Aussie stars of yesteryear. Are they not interested, not good enough or not getting the breaks?

Even most leading district clubs in Second Division seem to bypass them: Bankstown have Stiffle, Auburn have Nowacki — and it's only Joe Marston with Western Suburbs and Sutherland's Ken Hiron who are holding up the Australian end of the front.

Can somebody please explain?

* * *

"World Cup berth a possibility," screamed a headline late last week in "The Australian" and our heartbeat picked up pace. Then, reading on, we saw that the writer made the daring prediction — for 1978.

In 1957 we heard the same for the 1962 World Cup; in 1962 similar predictions were made for 1966. For the last 20 years or so countless promises were made by officials that "within three/five/ten years (cross out figure not required) Australian soccer would reach world class". Now the new date is 1978.

Which would be fine with us. Except that at this very moment nobody in the ASF can untangle what FIFA secretary Dr. H. Kaser gently described as "muddle" for our 1969 World Cup elimination matches.

Which makes the 1978 target somewhat remote.

— MIKE RENWICK

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FLOTTA LAURO

RESULTS & SCORERS

Manly

1 (0)
Stocks 67 min.

Sth. Coast

2 (2)
Alston 19 min., McGrath 21 min.

Yugal

0 (0)

Canterbury

3 (0)
Ninaus 49 and 82 mins.,
Hillhouse 67 min.

P. Hellenic

2 (1)
Karyannis 14 min., McCulloch 87 min.

A.P.I.A.

1 (1)
Campbell 21 min.

Croatia

5 (1)
Reynolds 16 and 85 mins.,
Woods 47 and 75 mins., Shep-
herd 55 min. (penalty).

St. George

2 (2)
Sangiovanni 36 min., Pueb-
las 42 min. (penalty).

Polonia

0 (0)

Hakoah

2 (0)
Watkiss 85 and 89 mins.

Melita E.

2 (1)
Duffy 30 min., Quested 65
min.

Prague

1 (1)
Lowry 5 min.

HOW THEY LINED UP

Tuinman 3; Brown 3, Brooks 3; Jones 3, Campbell 3, Stocks 4; Nutt 4, McGrath 3, Hendry 3, Jagger 3, Watkins 2 (Waller 2).

TOTAL: 34

Coach: D. Adryan.

Ramage 4; Barnes 4, Cuthbert 3; Strachan 4, Carr 3, Alston 3; Beattie 4, Anderson 4, Tolson 3, McGarry 3, McGrath 2.

TOTAL: 37

Coach: J. Kelly.

Ljujich 3; Halpin 3, Crnich 4; Kresinger 3, Banicevic (sent off), Rafaneli 3; J. Alagich 3, M. Alagich 2, Glenday 1, Edwards 3, Volar 2.

TOTAL: 27

Coach: F. Dunaj.

Demopoulos 4; Raeburn 3, Hardy 3; Romanos 3, Whitehead 4, Kauz 4; Hewitt 3, Ninaus 5, Massi 2, Hillhouse 2, Paxinos 3.

TOTAL: 36

Coach: H. Ninaus.

Clarke 4; Johnston 4, Hignett 3; McCulloch 4, Cole 4, Westwater 4; Blitz 3, Smith 4, Loukanidis 3, Karyannis 3, Patrinos 4.

TOTAL: 40

Coach: W. Tamandl.

Taylor 3; Van Blerk 4, Ackerley (sent off); Hughes 4, Sambrook 3, Bottalico 3; McKinnon 3 (Giacometti 2), Campana 5, Di Leonardo 4, Campbell 3, Blue 4.

TOTAL: 36

Coach: A. Iglesias.

Corry 4; Lincoln 4, Sloan 3; Page 3, Shepherd 4, Wright 3; Guerrero 3, R. Cush 4, Reynolds 5, Woods 4, Giles 3.

TOTAL: 40

Coach: W. Vrolyks.

Haffey 3; Bushby 2, Hillary 3; Nuttall 4, Morgan 3, Kane 2 (Freer 2); Pueblas 3, Sangiovanni 3, Warren 3, Harris 4, McCue 3.

TOTAL: 33

Coach: G. Polgar.

Fraser 4; Filok 4, Skiba 4; Calphy 4, Dzialach 4, Komoder 4; Povey 4, Minol 4, Kulak 3, Krawiarz 3, Swoboda 3.

TOTAL: 41

Coach: J. Horinek.

Fuzes 4; Fekete 3, Hillsdon 4; Gardiner 4, Marnoch 4, Yaager 4; Edmunds 4, Spilarowicz 4, Watkiss 5, Barnett 3, Jones 3.

TOTAL: 42

Coach: D. Holden.

Eaton 4; Hunter 4, De Bruin 5; Edwards 4, Woods 4, Duffy 4; Quested 3, Cooper 2, Goldie 3, Thorne 4, Nemet (sent off).

TOTAL: 37

Coach: J. Vlasits.

King 4; Harcombe (sent off), Tracey 4, Blacker 3, Zeman 4, Blanco 5; Armytage 4, G. Manuel 3, Scheinflug 2, Lowry 3, Gaulto 3.

TOTAL: 35

Coach: J. Venglos.

SYDNEY RESULTS AND DETAILS

SUMMING UP THE MATCHES

Match rating: * * *

An evenly balanced match which never reached great heights. Early in the first half, after a two-goal burst in as many minutes, South Coast looked like winning comfortably, but the ever-tenacious Manly refused to surrender and fought back as they have done on so many occasions. An injury to a South Coast fullback pulled Anderson out of the firing line, hampering the visitors' attack. From then on Manly took the initiative and pegged back one goal, and but for two fine saves by Ramage and poor shooting by the Manly forwards the score could easily have gone Manly's way.

Crowd: 600.

Referee: A.R. Brown.

— EDDIE EVANS

Match rating: * *

Canterbury's makeshift line-up was far too strong for a spiritless, despondent Yugal, who only went through the motions after Ninaus' first goal. The Berries' player-coach was the hero of the match. He showed he had lost little of the dash and deadly shooting accuracy which have earned him a place in Sydney's soccer hall of fame. Yugal went from bad to worse after Banicevic received his marching orders early in the second half. Had Ninaus received better support from his fellow-forwards, Canterbury's victory could have assumed gigantic proportions.

Crowd: 1,056.

Referee: M. Buchanan.

— LINCOLN WALTERS

Match rating: * * * * *

APIA, the more polished and constructive team, were a shade unlucky to be pipped on the post by a tremendous speculative 35-yard shot by McCulloch against the run of the play. Though the score may have flattered the winners, Pan Hellenic did not quite usurp their victory. Actually they had two goals disallowed for "offside", and on the whole had bigger chances than APIA. Pan Hellenic, however, were unable to match the smooth-running, intelligent, and much more purposeful approach of their opponents who looked like getting on top when McCulloch dashed their hopes. Referee Boskovic's flawless, firm handling was one of the highlights of a satisfying match which produced some excellent football.

Crowd: 18,180.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

— LOU GAUTIER

Match rating: * * * * *

A fast, entertaining game. The first half was even, and with the play see-sawing, it was anybody's game. In the second half St. George's condition wore out and it became one-way traffic for Croatia. Despite the final score Saints were not disgraced. They tried hard, but missed chances and Corry's goalkeeping prevented them from narrowing the gap. Croatia played good football — especially Reynolds, who was a constant worry to St. George's defence — and thoroughly deserved their fine win. Faster and better organised, they always looked the better team, even when they trailed at the interval.

Crowd: 1,282.

Referee: N. Campbell.

— FRANK JORDAN

Match rating: * * * * *

No wonder Polonia felt that Lady Luck had deserted them. After 80 minutes of exciting football in which the ball deservedly rolled for them — and during which they held the narrowest of edges — the Hakoah forwards combined to utterly demolish them. Until then, Edmunds, Barnett and sometimes Watkiss had played indifferently. Barnett-Edmunds-Watkiss, and the ball was pushed in. Then with the referee looking at his watch, Edmunds crossed and Watkiss, towering a mile high and out in the open, buried the ball in to sew the result up entirely. Glorious in defeat, Polonia surely have never played better, and the same could be said of their bullocking wing-half, David Calphy.

Crowd: 1,980.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

— KEITH GILMOUR

Match rating: * * * * *

Much too lenient refereeing in the first 20 minutes sparked off an ugly incident involving spectators invading the field of play. Only when referee George Naylor sent of Harcombe of Prague and Nemet of Melita — who figured in some spiteful tackling — did the players the Melita defence was in great shape with last weekend's game, Prague were miles off the beat and their forwards held on to the ball far too long to be effective. On the other hand, the Melita defence was in great form with De Bruin and Tony Edwards in excellent form and John Duffy's through passes opened wide gaps in the surprisingly suspect Prague defence. Prague had the opportunity to salvage at least a point but Scheinflug missed a penalty.

Crowd: 1,786.

Referee: G. Naylor.

— CHARLES SPITERI

COACHES COMMENT

Denes Adryan: "We fell down again in front of goal. South Coast were a one-goal better team though we gave them a chase in the second half."

* * *

Jim Kelly: "At first I thought we would stroll it in but an injury in our defence upset the team in the second half. We never looked like losing though".

* * *

Fredo Dunaj: "I can't understand why most of my players were so difficult. They threw in the towel early in the second half and were disappointingly spiritless".

* * *

Herbert Ninaus: "A good performance considering we had many key players out of action. I feel Canterbury will now finish in seventh or eighth place."

* * *

Walter Tamandl: "Just when I was resigned to a draw, McCulloch scored that magnificent goal! Victory was a just reward for all our players' courage and determination".

* * *

Adauto Iglesias: "We played the better soccer. But that's football, I suppose! The better team doesn't always win."

* * *

Bill Vrolyks: "Croatia played as a disciplined unit with every player pulling his weight. We still have an outside chance for the semis, but what's more important we showed we can play eye-catching soccer too".

* * *

Gyula Polgar: "We ran out of steam in the second half after a good first period. The lack of a midfield link again proved our downfall. I was pleased with our new Argentinians who fitted well in the team."

* * *

Joe Horinek: "My boys played at their absolute top. What more could I ask of them? Hakoah got the breaks at the right time. Our shots deserved goals early."

* * *

Doug Holden: "A very entertaining game for the fans. It could not have been more even, but we deserved the points for the last 10 minutes of pressure football."

* * *

Joe Vlasits: "I did not like the first part of the game, but otherwise Melita played the better football and deserved their first win at Mona Park."

* * *

Joe Venglos: "This was not a normal game. The 'best' man on the field was undoubtedly the referee!"

HAKOAH SHOULD STRETCH SLENDER LEAD

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The road to the championship is getting awfully slippery — which of the two contenders will have a disastrous fall this week?

Hakoah will face the totally unpredictable, almost blasé Yugal — and should win.

Pan Hellenic will come up against Sydney's method team, the brilliant but far from steady Prague — and could win.

But neither will have a picnic, especially the sons of Hellas whose opponents are fighting a desperate battle to reach the semifinals themselves.

Of the others still in the race APIA have a relatively easy task against Manly while Croatia, mathematically still there with a chance, will do battle with the Eagles.

APIA v.

Manly

An important match for APIA, who must not only win, but win well to make their place in the "semis" a certainty before they tackle Polonia the following week.

APIA showed enough against Pan Hellenic to suggest they have little to fear from the seadiders.

However, they'll have to produce their best to secure the convincing victory they seek because Manly, despite their sad fate, still have plenty of fire left in them.

The small Lambert Park pitch will suit them better than the smooth-moving APIA, but if APIA even drop a point here it will come as a king-size surprise.

After last week's unlucky faux-pas, APIA can't afford another slip and despite Manly's admirable spirit they should keep both points comfortably at home.

Hakoah v.

Yugal

Hakoah have come unstuck so many times against Yugal in the past that they can't take too much solace in their current vastly superior placing on the table.

Can Yugal destroy Hakoah's hopes for their first-ever championship just as they eliminated them from the semifinals in the last round in 1967?

Although Yugal have nothing at stake, they'll undoubtedly take the field determined to show the champions-elect a thing or two.

Having regained the lead by the skin of their teeth, Hakoah will treat their next two matches as the most important-ever in their history.

They also know full well that a win on Saturday, especially a convincing one, would really put the pressure on Pan Hellenic the following day.

We expect Hakoah's newfound lead to act as a mighty stimulant, galvanizing them to what may be a comfortable enough victory to perhaps even clinch the title as from this weekend, though Yugal are so unpredictable that anything could happen at Wentworth Park.

Prague v.

Pan Hellenic

Pan Hellenic, easily Australia's best-supported club today, will again create most interest this weekend when they take on the enigmatic Prague at Marks Field.

Prague's form is hard to follow. They are alternating the very best football with depressing, nervous displays almost week in week out.

Brilliant against Croatia, they sunk to dismal depths at Mona Park last weekend.

On their "Croatia form," they could expect to lower the Pan Hellenic boom, on their Melita performance, they face a lacing.

The uncertainty of Prague's form adds to the spice of Sunday's vital clash, the outcome of which is wide open.

Pan Hellenic can't feel all that confident. Despite their recent string of successes, they haven't really shown the confidence and ease associated with a champion side.

Prague at their cultured best would win, but under the present circumstances a draw seems as good a forecast as any.

Croatia v.

Melita Eagles

Both teams returned to form last weekend, and what an overdue return to the winning list it was for Melita Eagles!

Now that they've tasted victory again after weeks of "starvation," Melita will be

CROWDS

Last weekend's attendance: 24,884.

Average per match: 4,147.

Attendance after 20 rounds: 368,256.

Weekly average attendance: 18,412.

REFEREES

APIA v. Manly — P. Rampley; Hakoah v. Yugal — N. Jones; Canterbury v. St. George — J. Henkelman; Croatia v. Melita Eagles — A. Farone; Prague v. Pan Hellenic — H. Parsons; SCU v. Polonia — A. Boskovic.

LEADING SCORERS

Alston (SCU)	11
Baartz (Hakoah)	11
B. Smith (Pan Hellenic)	11
Karyannis (Pan Hellenic)	10
Cliss (St. George)	9
R. Cus (Croatia)	9
Edwards (Yugal)	9
McGarry (SCU)	9
Reynolds (Croatia)	8
Krawiarz (Polonia)	8
Kulak (Polonia)	8
G. Manuel (Prague)	8

ROUND 22

incentive left in this season's proceedings.

Since Canterbury are very much in the same frame of mind, this could make for bright, attacking football, neither team having anything to "defend."

Against Croatia, however,

they have the job ahead of them, what with Vrolyk's charges still clinging to an outside chance of reaching the semis.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that Croatia could share the coveted fourth place on Sunday night as Prague and Polonia could drop two points without raising an eye-brow.

Croatia were back at their best against St. George. If they display such gusto and intelligence at Wentworth Park on Sunday, Melita's hopes will be slim indeed.

In defence and in attack they appear stronger than Melita whose main asset will again be the dynamic De Bruin in midfield and the exuberance of their talented teenagers.

The better balanced Croatia should come out on top.

The better balanced Croatia should come out on top.

The Polonia defence holds the key to the match.

The only interest at Arlington Oval will be whether Saints can again overtake Canterbury at the foot of the ladder or whether they have to resign themselves to an inglorious second last place.

On current form the Berries, though far removed from greatness, should have the depleted Saints' measure.

Polonia will probably play for a goalless draw here, hoping for Prague to lose against Pan Hellenic.

The Sydneysiders have the defence to achieve this but we prefer South Coast's greater punch and more direct methods.

APIA

TAYLOR
VAN BLERK
DI LONARDO
HUGHES
SAMBROOK
BOTTALICO
GIACOMETTI
CAMPANA
SANTORO
CAMPBELL
BLUE

MANLY

TUINMAN
McGRATH
BROOKS
JONES
CAMPBELL
STOCKS
NUTT
HENDRY
MALONEY
JAGGER
WALLER

HAKOAH

FUZES
FEKETE
HILLSDON
GARDINER
MARNOCH
D. YAAGER
EDMUNDSON
SPILAREWICZ
WATKISS
BARNETT
JONES

YUGAL

IJUJIC
PACANIN
CRNICH
KRESINGER
HALPIN
RAFANELI
J. ALAGICH
M. ALAGICH
GLENDAY
EDWARDS
VOLAR

CANTERBURY

DEMOPoulos
RAEBURN
HARDY
ROMANOS
WHITEHEAD
KAUZ
HEWITT
NINAUS
MASSI
HILLHOUSE
PAXINOS

ST. GEORGE

HAFFEY
NUTTALL
HILLARY
SCHAFFER
MORGAN
BIRD
PUEBLAS
SANGIOVANNI
WARREN
HARRIS
MC CUE

CROATIA

CORRY
LINCOLN
SLOAN
PAGE
SHEPHERD
WRIGHT
GUERRERO
R. CUSH
REYNOLDS
WOODS
GILES

MELITA EAGLES

EATON
HUNTER
DE BRUIN
EDWARDS
WOODS
DUFFY
QUESTED
SMITH
GOLDIE
THORNE
BRENNAN

PRAGUE

KING
MOULSON
TRACEY
BLACKER
ZEMAN
BLANCO
R. MANUEL
G. MANUEL
SCHEINFUG
HOGGART
ARMYTAGE

PAN HELLENIC

CLARKE
JOHNSTON
HIGNETT
McCULLOCH
COLE
WESTWATER
BLITZ
SMITH
LOUKANIDIS
KARYANNIS
PATRINOS

SOUTH COAST

RAMAGE
BARNES
CUTHBERT
DAVIES
CARR
ALSTON
BEATTIE
ANDERSON
TOLSON
McGARRY
McGRATH

POLONIA

FRASER
FILOK
SKIBA
CALPHY
DZIALACH
KOMODER
POVEY
MINOL
KULAK
KRAWIARZ
SWOBODA

TEAM OF THE WEEK

CORRY

(Croatia)

HUNTER

(Melita)

WHITEHEAD

(Canterbury)

DE BRUIN

(Melita)

BLANCO

(Prague)

WOODS

(Croatia)

WATKISS

(Hakoah)

BLUE

(APIA)

RESULT SCOREBOARD

FIRST DIVISION

	APIA	St. George	Croatia	Hakoah	Canterbury	Prague	Polonia	Yugal	Melita Eagles	S. Coast Utd.	Manly
APIA	● 1-0	1-1	1-0	2-2	1-1	5-1	1-3	2-0	1-0	1-0	1-0
St. George	1-1	● 1-4	1-1	0-2	1-0	1-3	1-2	0-2	1-1	1-0	1-1
Croatia	1-1	5-2	● 0-3	0-2	2-2	3-1	1-2	3-1	1-0	2-0	
Pan Hellenic	2-1	1-0	2-1	● 0-0	3-0	1-4	1-0	4-1	2-0	2-0	3-1
Hakoah	1-2		3-0	2-0	● 3-1	4-3	0-0		2-0	3-1	2-1
Canterbury	1-4		1-1	1-2	● 0-5	0-3	2-1	1-1	3-1		3-1
Prague	0-1	1-0	3-1	1-0	6-0	● 1-0	3-0	1-0	1-1	1-1	2-0
Polonia	1-3	0-0	1-0	1-3	0-2	2-2	● 1-0	3-1	1-2	1-1	2-0
Yugal	3-0	1-0	0-3	0-4	1-1	0-3	0-1	● 0-1	1-1	3-3	
Melita Eagles	0-0	2-2	1-2	0-0	4-5	2-1	1-3	0-2	● 0-0	3-3	
South Coast	3-1	0-1	7-1	1-2	3-5	7-2	1-0		2-0	● 1-2	
Manly	3-3	0-3	0-2	0-1	0-3	1-4	1-2	1-2	0-1	1-2	●

VITAL STATISTICS

South Coast v. Polonia: 4-1-4

Before writing off Polonia entirely, remember that last year they scored a 1-0 win at Woonona.

Last weekend South Coast finally scored their first win in Sydney, even if it took lowly Manly to be the victim.

In the first round: 1-1.



ROUND THE WORLD

Di Stefano is home

Though he's now a Spanish citizen, Alfredo Di Stefano says he's returned to his native Argentina for good. Di Stefano has just signed a fabulous contract to coach Boca Juniors of Argentina. "Saeta rubia" (the blond arrow), as he's known in Argentina, will be paid \$6,000 a month. His contract is for two years, plus an option for another three years. Should he stick it out with Boca for the full five years he'll earn more than during his entire playing career in Argentina, Colombia and Spain.

Bobby Charlton too modest!

Bobby Charlton is endowed with the modesty which characterizes all true great sportsmen. The European Footballer of the Year for 1966-67 told Italy's "Gazzetta dello Sport" that his ambition has always been to emulate Di Stefano. "I'm flattered to be regarded so highly", he said, "but frankly, I don't think I've reached the heights of Di Stefano". Charlton also said that English soccer placed too much emphasis on body contact and should strive for more elegance and finesse.

Pele talks on BBC

Appearing on English television (a BBC unit flew to Brazil to film his life story), Pele gave a list of the five best players he played against. His ratings: 1 Mazzola (Italy), 2 Spencer (Uruguay), 3 Didi (Brazil), 4 Eusebio (Portugal), 5 Gilmar (Brazil). Pele reiterated that he was not "mad" about British soccer. "Too tough and gutsy", he said. Winning the 1958 World Cup as an 18-year-old gave him his greatest sporting thrill, Brazil's 1966 World Cup loss against Portugal his biggest disappointment.

Herrera defends his policy

Helenio Herrera denied he had almost sent former Inter Milan president, Angelo Moratti, broke by requesting a score of expensive buys when both were at the helm of the club. Said a very indignant HH: "Moratti made a fortune because of me. Inter beat all attendance records in Italy, launched players like Facchetti, Bedin, Cappellini and Corso who didn't cost him a lira. Even those who joined Inter, at Moratti's request, may I add, at a big fee, reaped a handsome profit for club and president."



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Only three of the seven cities which applied to join the North American League next season have been admitted. They are Miami, New Orleans and Philadelphia. Dick Walsh, president of the NAPSL, rejected a suggestion that a Mexican club should also be admitted. The North American League, he said, was designed to propagate soccer in the area. Mexico had already been won over by the sport and a Mexican team wouldn't contribute anything to the development of soccer in the US and Canada.

● Martin Bukovi's "homecoming" from retirement has pep up the long-ailing MTK of Budapest. First they drew with Ferencvaros and now they beat Vasas to resume the championship on a high note.

● Dr. Foni, Inter Milan's new coach, plans to use Suarez as a "libero" — a role first introduced in Sydney recently by APIA's Di Lonardo.

● West German national team manager, Helmut Schoen, has just spent a fortnight at Snagov with the Rumanian national team as a "guest" coach. Last year it was Helenio Herrera who was invited to give lectures and demonstrations.

● Africa Sport of Abidjan (Ivory Coast) have been thrown out of the African Champions' Cup for fielding a Corsican professional under an assumed name when they beat Englebert of Leopoldville in the second round of the competition.

● The German TV will telecast a half hour of each Saturday's Bundesliga match throughout the oncoming season. The clubs will get \$350,000 in return, between them.

● The New York "Generals" have paid \$30,000 for Santos' talented 22-year-old inside-forward, Eliseu. New York are favored to win group "A" of the North American League's Eastern Division.

● The return match in the Fair Cities' Cup final will be played in Budapest on September 11. In the first leg, at Leeds, the English team beat Hungary's Ferencvaros 1-0.

● Torpedo Moscow have slipped to sixth place in the Russian First Division. They are eight points behind leaders Dynamo Kiev, who lead narrowly from Spartak Moscow after 22 rounds.

● George Best has an imitator. Gordon Banks, the England goalkeeper, is also opening a boutique.

● Sarti, the 35-year-old former Italian international goalie, has switched from Inter Milan to Juventus where he'll only be Anzolin's substitute.

● Rapid Vienna last week officially renewed the contract of their Czech coach, Rudolf Vytlaclil, for another season.

● Spain's highest sporting award — the silver medal of sporting merit — has been awarded this year to a Third Division soccer club, Orense, who gained Second Division promotion without losing any of their 30 matches, scoring 98 goals and only conceding seven.

● First Vienna's elaborate plans for their 75th anniversary as Austria's oldest club, were cancelled as a result of their relegation to Second Division.

● Inter Milan, who had a relatively mediocre season in 1967-68, suffered a loss of 118,000 spectators at their home matches last season. Arch-rivals, AC Milan, the new Italian champions, however, showed an increase of 113,000 on the previous season.

● Argentina's new Association president, following the resignation of Valentino Suarez, is Armando Ramos Ruiz, a former Racing Buenos Aires vice-president.

● A Rio XI last week trounced the Argentinian national team 4-1 at the Maracana Stadium in front of a crowd of 124,000.

● Starting on August 27, Santos will undertake another US tour. The Pele-team, which played six matches in America only three weeks ago, will appear in Oakland, Atlanta and Cleveland this time — for their usual fee of \$15,000 per match.

● Real Madrid have also been lured to the US Eldorado. For a two-match visit, which will take in New York and St. Louis next week, the Spaniards have been guaranteed \$26,000.

● There will be 16 First Division teams in Rumania this season. The new team in the First Division is Crisul Oradea.

● The final of the Balkan Cup will be an all-Bulgarian affair between Beroe and Spartak Sofia.

● FIFA's Russian vice-president, Valentin Granatkin, was 60 years old last week. Granatkin was the top Russian goalie in the thirties before becoming president of the USSR Federation.

● Three Bulgarian referees have been suspended for six months. Their "crime"? They asked for the reimbursement of unforeseen expenses when their car overturned on their way to a junior match. Every Bulgarian referee, even the very top, are expected to give their services free of charge twice a month to the juniors.

● Ferenc Puskas, too, has been suspended. The Vancouver Royals' coach refused to pay a \$200 fine for allegedly inciting the crowd from the sidelines during the recent match against Borussia Dortmund in Vancouver.

Is he lucky?

Hungary and Austria will meet in a full international in Budapest on September 8. The Austrian team will be selected for the first time by new manager, Czech-born Stastny. And the Austrians believe in omens: Stastny in Czech means "lucky".

Japan wants Asian Games

South Korea have declined to stage the Asian Games in Seoul in 1970. They claim they can't be ready in time, and besides cannot afford the huge costs involved because their country is in a near state of war with neighbouring North Korea. It seems likely that Japan will be entrusted with organising the next Asian Games. The Japanese FA, for one, is very keen to have the Games held at home as it would probably enable Japan to win their first official Asian soccer title. The best they've achieved so far is a third place at the 1951 Games in New Delhi and in Bangkok in 1966.

East German tour off

There is no chance that the full East German national team will visit Australia early next year. The Germans have been refused entry visas to most of the Asian countries they planned to visit on their proposed world tour, including Hong Kong, Thailand and Indonesia. The Germans were hoping to use the Asian tour as a "warm-up" for their tough World Cup elimination matches. They may now tour the Middle-East instead and play in Syria, Irak, Iran and Lebanon.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRIA: FK Austria v. Wiener Sportklub 2-1; Wacker 0-0.

HUNGARY: MTK v. Vasas 4-2; Csepel v. Diogsyor 2-0; Ujpest v. Egyetertes 5-0; Honved v. Videoton 1-2; Szombathely v. Ferencvaros 2-3; Pecs v. Dunaujvaros 1-0; Tatabanya v. Gyor 3-0. Table: Ujpest, Vasas 25; Ferencvaros 24; Honved 23; Csepel 21; Pecs 19.

BULGARIA (First round): CSKA v. Botev 7-0; Slavia 3-1; Dobroudja v. Trakia 0-4; Lokomotiva Plovdiv v. Spartak Plevene 3-0; Miners v. Spartak Sofia 2-3; Cernomore v. Marek 0-2; Donnav v. Levski Sofia 1-2; Lokomotiva Sofia v. Botev Vratza 5-1.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA (First round): Slavia v. Slovan Bratislava 0-3; Zilina v. Banik Ostrava 1-1; Pardubice v. Lokomotiva Kosice 4-0; Dukla Prague v. Banska 3-1; Inter Bratislava v. Sparta Prague 2-3; Kosice v. Jednota Trencin 5-1.

(Second round): Lokomotiva Kosice v. Slavia Prague 1-0; Sparta Prague v. Kosice 1-0; Jednota Trencin v. Teplice 5-0; Banik Ostrava v. Pardubice 5-1.

WEST GERMANY (First round): Eintracht Frankfurt v. Hertha Berlin 2-0; FC Koln 2-1; Kickers Offenbach 2-1; Duisburg v. Schalke 04 1-0; Borussia Dortmund v. Moenchengladbach 1-3; Braunschweig v. Hamburger SV 1-0; Werder Bremen v. Hannover 96 3-2; VFB Stuttgart v. Munchen 1860 1-1; Bayern Munchen v. FC Kaiserslautern 2-1; FC Nurnberg v. Alemannia Aachen 1-4.

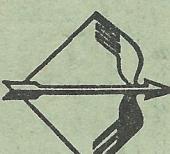
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DUTCH SIDE BOUNCE BACK INTO PICTURE

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Many "Soccer World" readers in Victoria would plump for Melbourne as being the shock side of 1968 in this State by virtue of the fact that they were league champions last year, won the Australia Cup — and are now battling to preserve their existence in the State League.

For my money, however, the real shock side of Victorian soccer this season is Wilhelmina, probably just as well known by their new tag, Ringwood City.

Relegated to the First Division at the end of the 1966 season, Wilhelmina were somewhat unlucky.

Only one point separated them from Lions and Alexander.

More important still, it was acknowledged in most quarters that Wilhelmina were a better all-round side than the pair directly above them.

In their one year spell in the First Division the Ringwood side had only one real threat, St. Albans, who kept neck and neck with them on the ladder for most of the season but were left behind in the latter stages of the competition when Wilhelmina strode away

and finished with a four-point lead.

This two-horse race proved conclusively that any well established State League club who can retain their players if relegated are the nearest thing to a certainty to make the trip back "upstairs" in one season.

IDENTICAL

This axiom still applies in 1968.

But back to Wilhelmina whose side which took them down in 1966 was almost identical to the one which took them back to the State League in 1967.

At the start of this season many heads were shaking when Wilhelmina began with the same side which they had played in 1967.

Even before the first ball of the season was kicked, more than a few "well in-

formed" critics earmarked them for an early return to First Division soccer.

More than a few eyes blinked when they slammed last year's League runners-up Juventus 6-1 in their opening game, gained only one point from their next three matches, recovered, then fell away again before coming back with a bang which now sees them as having a better than even chance of finishing up in the top six and making the 1969 Australia Cup.

The Ringwood side has not changed much from the team which brought them back from the First Division.

They acquired Bobby Thomson, a defender of experience with Partick Thistle, Liverpool and Luton Town who, though he is now back in the first team, has not been anywhere near a regular all season.

A find was Graham Bibby, a wing half who

arrived from England almost unannounced while the third newcomer of the current side is Wim Spiekerman, an inside-forward and former Dutch amateur international who landed here a few weeks ago and has earned himself a regular billet.

What has been the secret of the Wilhelmina success?

Good planning in building a side which has no real stars but 11 players who are dedicated to the task of providing good entertainment with 100 percent effort even when the chips are down.

It is common knowledge too, that the wage packets of the Ringwood players are realistic in accordance with their skills and ability and the drawing capacity of the club.

Although they cannot be classed as a wonder side, the future of the club after a spell in the doldrums looks bright.

WITH THE AMATEURS

ARTARMON POISED FOR SENIOR PROMOTION

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Artarmon seem poised to take out the Inter-Suburban First Division premiership as a result of their 2-2 draw with Wentworthville at Jones Park last Saturday.

Both teams are on equal points, but Artarmon lead on goal average and are strongly tipped to gain promotion to Federation Second Division.

Artarmon and Wentworthville turned on a thriller, Michael Bergman scoring first for Went.

Graham Lane brought it to 1-1 with a shot just under the bar, and this was the half-time score.

Bergman again scored for Wentworthville, and it was not until the last minute or so that Terry Williams equalised from a penalty for Artarmon.

Highly-rated Marrickville were held to nil-all by East Side-MTK.

Either team might have won an exciting tussle.

George Adler doubled up in both grades as goalkeeper for East Side, and turned in two good performances.

Centre-half Peter Wyner was the rallying force for East Side from the centre-half berth.

Rapid leads

Riverside Rapid club were jubilant when the first team hit the front with one round to go.

Rapid downed Warringah 3-0, and were the better side, although the losers tried hard, and even hit the crossbar from a penalty kick, without scoring.

Goalkeeper Semmler had his best day for Rapid, who scored through Doller and Schwarz in the first half, and Willis in the second.

Next week Rapid has to overcome the improved Arncliffe Scots at Cahill Park, with Guildford and Enmore taking on St. Marys and Penrith respectively.

Should Rapid lose to Arncliffe, they could find themselves dropping smartly from first to third place.

The action at Guildford came apace in the second half.

Enmore stayed on top in a hard game, and Guildford, giving the ball too much air and sustaining injuries, could not bridge the gap and lost 1-3.

The Fourth Division ended last week with Campbelltown gaining promotion.

RESULTS

FIRST DIVISION

St. Sydney v. Thistle 0-0. Went v. Artarmon 2-2. Newcastle Uni. v. Ryde 4-0. Belmore v. Lidcombe 0-4. Ryde v. NSW Uni. 4-1. Blacktown v. Concordia 0-2. Marrickville v. E. Side 0-0.

SECOND DIVISION

Riverside v. Warringah 3-0. St. Marys v. Gyms 4-2. Kewpies v. Arncliffe 1-2. Yagoona v. Sydney Uni. 1-2. Gyms v. Penrith 1-5. Guildford v. Enmore 1-3. St. Marys v. Auburn 2-2.

THIRD DIVISION

G'ville-H'by v. All Stars 1-2. Revesby v. F'field-Kiev 7-0. Greenacre v. West Ryde 3-9.

FOURTH DIVISION

C'town v. Ku-ring-gai 14-0. Liverpool v. Padstow Pk. 5-3. Newtown v. Chelsea 5-4. Central Utd. v. Maroubra 3-3.

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, August 24

First Division: Thistle v. Went. Waratahs — Bankstown Soccer Centre, Artarmon v. East Side-MTK — Artarmon Park.

Second Division: Arncliffe Scots v. Rapid-Riverside — Cahill Park, Sydney Uni. v. Gyms — St. Pauls Oval, Penrith v. Enmore — Jamison Park.

Sunday, August 25

First Division: Marrickville v. Belmore — Mackay Park, Lid-

combe v. Ryde — Coleman Park, NSW Uni. v. Blacktown — D. Phillips Oval, Concordia v. St. Sydney — Steel Park.

Second Division: Guildford v. St. Marys — Guildford, Auburn Juniors v. Kewpies — Progress Park, Warringah v. Yagoona — Dee Why Oval.

Third Division: Condell Park v. Gladesville-Hornsby — Banks- town Showground, Rovers Juniors v. Dee Why — Loftus Oval, Fairfield-Kiev v. Greenacre — Knights Park.

SA boys on tour

Fifteen players, drawn from 10 high schools in Adelaide, Elizabeth and Whyalla comprise the South Australian CHS team which arrives in Sydney on Sunday week for a five-match tour of NSW.

Unquestionably the tour will bring together Australia's best schoolboy footballers.

The itinerary is:

Mon. Sept. 2: v. Punchbowl, Lambert Park (3.45 p.m.).

Tues. Sept. 3: v. Newcastle CHS, Macquarie Field Speers Point (8.15 p.m.).

Thurs. Sept. 5: v. NSW Adamstown Oval (1 p.m.).

Fri. Sept. 6: v. NSW, Sydney Athletic Field (6.15 p.m.).

Sun. Sept. 8: v. NSW, Bankstown Soccer Centre, (11.30 a.m.).

The touring party is:

M. Powell, M. Delahaye (Elizabeth), E. Wright (Elizabeth Tech.), D. Noonan (Nailsworth), J. Artz, E. Clarke (Seacombe), J. Cichinski (Woodville), M. Ross (Unley), R. Harrison, M. Kavalceni (Croydon Tech), H. Kolecki (Le Fevre Tech), J. Emmanuel, J. Costello (Campbelltown).

Manager: Mr. J. Huffadine, coach: Mr. G. Buttas.

Newcastle tops

Newcastle Boys High are the strong tip to take out the 1968 Tasman Cup final, played at Macquarie Field, Speers Point, this week.

In the semifinals at Sydney Athletic Field last Thursday Newcastle High 3 (E. Howell 2, T. Smyth) defeated South Strathfield 1 (B. Hungerford) and Newcastle Tech. High 2 (D. Jones, B. Kemp) defeated Punchbowl 1 (K. Scully).

South Strathfield, thanks to a sterling all-round performance by T. Thompson, gave a plucky display to hold Newcastle High at bay.

For Newcastle the half-backs, P. O'Hearn, R. O'Hearn and R. Shand, were superb, with Ron O'Hearn giving a majestic display.

Forwards K. Williams, T. Smyth and G. Valentine excelled.

Sound defence by J. Thompson was a feature of Punchbowl's display against Newcastle Tech. High, who were well served by P. Fairleigh and N. Wellham in defence and L. Dennis in attack.

There is no question that the Newcastle schools deserved their wins, again leaving Sydney to fight for third and fourth places.

HELLAS THROW OUT CHALLENGE

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

West Adelaide Hellas are willing to stake \$1,000 to prove that they are the best club side in Australia.

The SA league leaders will challenge the champion clubs from NSW, Victoria and Western Australia; provided they win the 1968 league title.

Hellas are three points clear of USC Lion with two rounds remaining to complete the season.

As SA champions, Hellas hope to arrange challenge games on a home and away basis, winner-take-all basis.

Hellas chairman Nick Manos said: "These type of matches are the nearest we can get to a national league under the existing set-up."

"Our players don't get enough competition against 'strange' opposition and if we can launch the idea it may set a pattern for future years."

Hellas muffed their chance to prove their worth on a national scale when they were eliminated from the Australia Cup by Perth Azzurri.

LUCKHURST GETS BREAK

Four years ago Terry Luckhurst, a 22-year-old wing-half or inside-forward arrived in Australia after playing for English non-league side Maidstone United to join Wilhelmina.

After spending some time with the Ringwood side he was transferred to Juventus for what can be described as the cost of a "throw-out" and played almost regularly for the Italian side until he returned to England late last season.

Today Terry has hit the jackpot and recently signed for Eindhoven, a top side in the Dutch national league.

One would almost think that Terry who was only an average type of player in State League soccer was in fact a "Bobby Charlton."

For the day after signing for Eindhoven the country's leading club, DWS Amsterdam also offered him a contract.

ARE THEY KIDDING?

Who's kidding who?

Sydney reports that Cliss and Fernandez of St. George-Budapest have only been "loaned" to Hungarian sister club, Melbourne-HSC, striving to beat the relegation bogey in State League soccer are not on a parallel to the statement of Melbourne secretary — Tom Markus.

The Melbourne scribe told me when questioned on the transfer of the two players it was of a permanent nature and had no connection with any future move by Attila Abonyi.

While my first allegiance is normally to Victorian soccer in any doubtful matter with NSW, in this instance I'm inclined to believe that the Sydney report is the more accurate of the two. — Bob Low.

AUST. RESULTS, TABLES

VICTORIAN RESULTS

Juventus 4 (Murney, Di Marchi, Epifano, Norman) v. Hakoah 1 (Coles). Melbourne-HSC 3 (Abonyi 2, Pocock) v. Hellas 2 (Micic, Damjanic). Lions 3 (Aldis, Murney, McBain) v. Slavia 1 (Gildea). George Cross 3 (Gardiner, Friedberg, McCallum) v. Polonia 0. Croatia 2 (Mackay 2) v. Wilhelmina 1 (Spiekerman); JUST 1 (Kazi) v. Alexander 1 (Brown).

VICTORIAN TABLE

Team	13	2	4	35	16	28
Croatia	9	6	4	24	19	24
Polonia	9	6	4	23	19	24
Hakoah	9	5	5	29	21	23
Hellas	8	6	5	32	25	22
Lions	7	6	6	19	21	20
George Cross	7	5	7	34	26	19
Wilhelmina	6	6	7	23	22	18
Juventus	5	7	7	25	35	17
Slavia	5	5	9	26	28	15
Alexander	5	5	9	27	40	15
Melbourne	4	6	9	21	32	14
JUST	5	3	11	25	35	13

MELBOURNE PROGRAM

Saturday: Lions v. Alexander at Essendon, JUST v. Polonia at Footscray, George Cross v. Wilhelmina at Olympic Park.

Sunday: Croatia v. Juventus at Olympic Park, Hakoah v. SM Hellas at Middle Park, Melbourne v. Slavia at St. Kilda.

ADELAIDE RESULTS

Polonia 1 (H. Kolecki) v. WA Hellas 1 (Birch), Victoria 2 (Maticsek, McKenzie) v. Beograd 0, Croatia 3 (W. Slager 2, Mapstone) v. Cumberland 0, Juventus 5 (Serafini 2, Herczeg, Oliviera, Zampogno) v. Elizabeth 2 (Mill, t.o.g., Wadlow, penalty), USC Lion 1 (J. Nyskohus) v. Austria 0.

S.A. TABLE

Competition

Tables

FIRST DIVISION

GRADE II.

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Prague	17	—	3	5	1	34
APIA	12	3	5	46	26	27
SCU	12	2	6	51	25	26
Croatia	11	4	5	37	28	26
St. George	12	1	7	46	30	25
Hakoah	11	2	7	36	22	24
Pan Hellenic	9	1	10	38	35	19
Melita Eagles	9	—	11	43	49	18
Polonia	5	4	11	37	52	14
Manly	5	2	13	34	49	12
Canterbury	5	2	13	28	67	12
Yugal	1	1	18	10	63	3

GRADE III.

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Prague	15	2	3	46	19	32
St. George	13	4	3	38	22	30
Croatia	12	2	4	45	23	28
SCU	9	4	7	38	27	22
Pan Hellenic	8	6	24	18	22	
Canterbury	9	4	7	30	22	
Hakoah	9	2	9	31	33	20
Yugal	5	8	7	32	37	18
APIA	6	3	11	25	37	15
Melita Eagles	6	3	11	34	48	15
Manly	4	3	13	30	43	11
Polonia	2	1	17	29	56	5

SECOND DIVISION

GRADE I.

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Auburn	14	4	2	49	17	32
Bankstown	15	1	4	52	29	31
Western Subs.	15	1	4	59	27	31
Sutherland	12	3	5	45	35	27
Marconi	10	4	6	35	18	24
Balgownie	9	5	6	35	23	23
Granville	8	3	9	42	49	19
NS-Inter	6	4	10	25	57	16
N. Bankstown	6	2	12	42	53	14
Corinthians	4	2	14	16	47	10
Lane Cove	3	1	16	22	52	7
Hornsby-NE	1	4	15	30	53	6

GRADE II.

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Western Subs.	17	2	1	67	12	36
Balgownie	13	3	4	55	19	29
Sutherland	13	2	5	57	28	28
Bankstown	12	3	5	66	26	27
Marconi	10	4	6	34	37	24
Auburn	9	5	6	55	30	23
Granville	8	3	9	47	47	19
Hornsby-NE	9	1	10	36	43	19
Lane Cove	5	2	13	21	70	12
N. Bankstown	3	5	12	28	47	11
Corinthians	2	2	16	17	65	6
NS-Inter	2	2	16	26	95	6

GRADE III.

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bankstown	18	—	2	87	14	36
Western Subs.	17	2	1	90	16	36
Sutherland	13	4	3	93	25	30
Granville	12	4	4	58	34	28
N. Bankstown	12	2	6	51	27	26
Balgownie	9	3	8	33	32	21
Auburn	8	2	10	52	47	18
Hornsby-NE	6	2	12	29	45	14
Lane Cove	4	3	13	26	72	11
Marconi	4	2	14	13	54	10
Corinthians	2	3	15	18	132	7
NS-Inter	1	1	18	20	73	3

INTER-SUBURBAN

FIRST DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Artarmon	10	10	1	62	22	30
Went	14	2	5	58	28	30
Thistle	12	4	5	56	26	28
Marrickville	10	8	3	52	25	28
Concordia	11	6	4	56	28	28
Sth. Sydney	11	6	4	35	21	28
East Side-MTK	10	3	8	56	38	23
Belmore	4	9	8	35	45	17
Lidcombe	5	2	14	27	68	12
NSW Uni.	4	3	14	29	62	11
Blacktown	5	1	15	29	82	11
Ryde	2	2	17	18	68	6

SECOND DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rapid-R'side	17	—	4	74	32	34
Guildford	16	1	4	74	20	33
Enmore	15	3	3	83	24	33
Warringah	12	4	5	56	29	28
Yagoona	9	5	7	41	35	23
Auburn	10	1	10	41	44	21
St. Marys	9	2	10	47	59	20
Arndcliffe Scots	8	3	10	32	37	19
Kewpies	6	2	13	35	43	14
Penrith	4	5	12	42	67	13
Sydney Uni.	4	4	13	31	57	12
Gymea	1	20	20	129	2	6

THIRD DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rovers	12	1	2	67	16	25
Condell Park	11	1	3	51	19	23
All Stars	9	3	4	40	28	21
Dee Why	6	4	5	36	32	16
G'ville-H'by	6	4	5	31	23	16
Revesby	8	—	8	45	39	16
West Ryde	5	3	8	37	40	13
F'ield-Kiev	1	3	11	23	70	5
Greenacre	1	1	13	24	86	3